

The Villages®

Community Development Districts

July
2023

Hospitality ~ Stewardship ~ Creativity & Innovation ~ Hard Work

Meeting the needs of The Villages community Residents is our primary objective.

PURPOSE To provide and preserve the lifestyle of Florida's Friendliest Hometown.

VISION To be respected as the most responsive and responsible Community Development District.

MISSION To provide responsible and accountable public service that enhances and sustains our community.

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Happy 4th!

In the spirit of togetherness and celebration, I would like to wish you a happy Independence Day. Stay safe, enjoy your time with friends and loved ones, and don't forget those who made this day possible!

Kenny Blocker, District Manager

In 1871, Massachusetts became the first state to declare the 4th of July an official state holiday.



At least 30 towns/cities in the United States contain the world "liberty" in their name.

- Here are some:
- Liberty, Florida*
- New Liberty, Iowa*
- West Liberty, Kentucky*
- Liberty Lake, Washington*
- North Liberty, Iowa*
- Liberty Hill, Texas*
- Libertyville, Illinois*



Bristol, Rhode Island was home to the first 4th of July parade in 1785.



Coney Island, New York, hosts a famous, televised hot dog eating contest every year on July 4th.



Happy 4th!



IN THE
spotlight

Daniel Garcia
Recreation & Parks
Recreation Supervisor



Where were you born & raised and went to school?

I was born in Cali, Colombia but I was raised in Miami, FL. I went to several schools throughout my school years, Coral Gables High School, Flanagan High School, and Miramar High School.

What was special about where you are from?

Miami is a beautiful city with great weather, and the Beach is always a fun place. There is a lot of entertainment so there's always something to do.

Tell us about your family, people in your life (including pets!)

I have a beautiful wife and 4 beautiful kids and my baby pitbull. My house is always entertaining, there's not many quiet days but my life wouldn't be the same if I didn't have my family.

Hobbies? Favorite activities?

I love sports, I still play basketball when my body allows me to, I enjoy playing Billiards and I like to draw from time to time.

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Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?

My mother because she was a single mother for a long time, and she sacrificed so much for my brother and I to have a better life. She has shown me that hard work does pay off and that you should give 100% no matter what you are doing in life.

What's the best advice you have ever received?

Always strive to be the best version of yourself no matter what chips you are dealt with.

What is the career & training path that led you to the District?

Working for Citrus County Parks & Recreation as a Community Center Coordinator led me to this job. I had 5 buildings under me, and we had events all the time, We had weddings, concerts, MMA fights, NXT wrestling and we hosted the Citrus County Science Fair. Being able to manage all that gave me the experience that I'm able to use here to be a great supervisor and hopefully move up when the opportunity arises.

Can you tell us about your day-to-day responsibilities?

My day-to-day responsibilities include making sure that the residents and guests are happy and making sure that my team have everything they need to make their job easier.

What is your favorite aspect of working for the District?

The interaction with the community and co workers makes working for the District a great career opportunity.

What is the most interesting thing you have ever seen?

Senior Games, it was amazing to be part of the whole process and see how active the older community is.

Sports Team

Miami Hurricanes, Dolphins & Heat



Restaurant

Ruth Chris Steak House

Food
Chicken

Vacation Spot
Anywhere in Florida

Current Job Openings

Are you looking for a career change, or know someone who is seeking employment? Our current job openings include:

Community Watch

- Gate Attendants, regular & substitutes \$12.00 / Hour
- Del Mar, Red, 1500-2200
 - Morse North, Red, 1800-2400
 - Alhambra, Blue, 1200-1800
 - Boone, Red, 1200-1800
 - Santiago, Blue, 1800-2300
 - Sunset Pointe, Blue, 1200-1800
 - Hadley, Blue, 1800-2400
 - Tag Team (2 days), Boone, Red, 1800-2300

Gate Operations Attendant Substitutes \$12.00 / Hour

- Patrol Drivers \$12.34 / Hour
- Patrol 7, Blue, 1600-2400
 - Patrol 1, Red, 0000-0800
 - Patrol 9, Blue, 0000-0800

Dispatcher

- Regular & Substitute \$13.74 / Hour

Finance

Accounting Technician-Revenue Specialist \$15.30 / Hour
 Staff Accountant II-General Ledger \$55,000.00 / Annual
 Senior Accountant \$63,000.00 / Annual

Property Management

Staff Assistant \$15.30 / Hour
 Landscape Supervisor \$23.51 / Hour

Public Safety

Firefighter EMT \$15.00 / Hour
 Firefighter Paramedic \$19.29 / Hour
 Single Certification Paramedic \$15.57 / Hour

Recreation & Parks

Recreation Leader - PT \$15.30 / Hour

Keep an eye out for emails from Terianne Carroll, HR Manager for future openings within the District.

Or use our internal link to apply for internal positions:

[https://www2.appone.com/Search/Search.aspx?](https://www2.appone.com/Search/Search.aspx?Internal=yes&ServerVar=villagescentercommunitydevelopment.appone.com)

[Internal=yes&ServerVar=villagescentercommunitydevelopment.appone.com](https://www2.appone.com/Search/Search.aspx?Internal=yes&ServerVar=villagescentercommunitydevelopment.appone.com)

If you have questions on job openings or how to apply, please call HR at 352-674-1905



It's a great time to start saving for retirement!

Full and part-time employees currently have 2 options to choose from, and are eligible 30 days after their date of hire.

⇒ 457b Retirement Plan - Pre Tax

⇒ 457b Roth Retirement Plan - Post Tax

Bonus! If you're a full time employee participant in a 457b plan, the District will match up to 3%.

Retirement forms are located in Paychex documents

→ search for retirement.

Please reach out to Angie Ortiz in HR with any questions, 352-674-1905.



Employees On The



Community Watch

- **Dwight Stull** transferred from Patrol Driver Substitute to Patrol Driver.
- **Michael Berube** transferred from Gate Attendant to Gate Operations Attendant.

Property Management

- **Chris Ryzoc** was promoted from Assistant Landscape Manager to Landscape Manager.
- **Jessi Evans** was promoted from Landscape Supervisor to Assistant Landscape Manager.

Recreation & Parks

- **Angela Cupp** was promoted from Recreation Assistant to Recreation Service Representative.

Customer Service

- **Susan Serafini** transferred from Accounting Technician-Revenue Specialist to Accounting Technician-Utilities.

Finance

- **Ruth Beard** was promoted from Dispatcher to Administrative Coordinator.



Recreation & Parks

Mary Barden-Nicastro
 Beverly Ladd
 Roger McEvoy
 Katrina Neman
 Vickie Blocker
 Joseph Collins
 Jennifer Pfannenstiel
 Julie Santers
 Kristian Sarakinis
 John Davi
 Lorrie Hatfield
 Art Lefevre
 Wallace Mayne
 Camille Sicolo
 Lisa Siegal
 Shane Sullivan
 Karen Edoff
 Christina Scharnott

Community Watch

Todd Bolton
 David Deskins
 Joseph Gamble
 Greg Gibson
 David Jacobson
 Niels Jensen
 Paul Pallini
 Dwight Stull
 Debbie Thompson
 Steven Valentini
 Peggy Gervinski
 Lianne Ricciarelli
 Cherie Saly
 Roberta Stanley
 Raymond Banks
 Gary Cyr
 Angela Johnson
 William Ulrich

Finance

Derek Sheth
 Tiffany Holley

Customer Service

Donna Marin

Community Standards

Richard Jensen
 Lisa Kinney

Public Safety

David Lanier
 Leonard Horn

District Administration Offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.





Community Watch

Margo Atherholt	1
Jessica Belanga	1
Paul Tucker	1
Danny Hadley	2
Matthew Bedtelyon	4
Lois Schwenn	4
Peter Rissland	5
Judith Urfer	5
Patsy Anderson	6
Horace Roqueta	6
Jane Saunders	7
Gerard Lyman	7
Patrick Passaretti	10
Dora Rivenbark	11
Edward Lott	12
Robert McCants	12
Clarence Hunter	13
Rembert Rivenbark	14
Alan Stults	15
Robert Culbertson	16
Steven Valentini	16
Mark Bednarek	18
Clinton Pike	20
James Williams	20
Douglas Holliday	21
Chester Gould	21
Matthew Belanga	22
James Skaare	22
John Mills	25
Cheryl Stines	26
John Hawck	26
George Hatzigiannakis	27
Joan Mayo	28
Delbert Houghton	28
Beverly Buehler	31

Public Safety

Danijel Preložnik	1
Robert Sheridan	1
David Quevedo	2
Blake Normoyle	5
Peter Carpenter	7
Dawn Doucette	10
Taylor Demarchis	10
Michael Grubb	11
John Longacre	12
Brian Twiss	14
Jacob Rogers	16
Ryan Lavender	17
Christopher Parco	19
Ronald Daugherty	24
Keith Norris	25
Robert Sjogren	30
Jason Croom	31
Christopher Gruber	31

Administration

Brittany Wilson	4
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Property Management

Brent Kirwan	6
Gregory Vannatter	7
Rachel Hoffmann	12
Joella LeDonne	14
Mark Craig	19

Community Standards

Eric Pozen	12
Grayce Pait	26

Customer Service

Louis Cummings	6
Susan Serafini	31

Finance

Chantel Pierre	5
Derek Sheth	21

Recreation & Parks

Mary Lynn Golota	2
Majid Al-falahi	2
Katherine Harris	3
Susan Kelm	3
Michelle Salazar	3
Wayne Ellison	6
Salvatore Carone	6
Vilma Jakubicki	7
Richard Oliva	7
Robert Stone	8
Roxann Phillips	8
Linda Reilly	10
Ethan Peterson	10
Barbara Hintzke	10
Charles Kelley	14
George Gaylord	14
Jo Bugala	14
Michael Noto	15
Elsina Riddell	15
Melanie Krebs	15
Joseph Cacciatore	16
Paul Emberger	16
Anita Detterbeck	16
Nancy Beaulieu	16
Brenda Scully	17
Michael Hohnemann	17
Guy Fimiani	17
Mindi Valancy	17
Wendy Grubbs	17
Ryan Garvey	20
Paul Ferreri	20
Dale Hetsko	21
Mark Collette	22
Marlene Pirtle	22
Kurt Bohlman	22
Herbert Sweren	22
Todd Harper	22
Thomas Linn	23
Abbe Finkelstein	23
James Stewart	24
Carol Ross	24
Regina Demarco	25
Catherine Herrick	26
James Buchanan	27
Donald Mannion	27
Joseph Natoli	27
Daniel Wood	28
Paul Kirsliis	28
Michele Shadish	29
Thomas Baker	29
Thomas Dalton	29
Jeannine Young	29
Patricia Adams	29
Jennifer Thorpe	30
Kacie Linton	31
James Vigliarolo	31

HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY

Public Safety

Shane Danford	07/23/2012	11
Gene Wine	07/23/2012	11
Robert Meffen	07/14/2014	9
Phillip Roberts	07/14/2014	9
Christopher Stevenson	07/14/2014	9
Edward Raulerson	07/05/2016	7
Casey Dyer	07/18/2016	7
Ryan Lavender	07/18/2016	7
Jorge Molina	07/18/2016	7
Lance Roberts	07/18/2016	7
Michael Larroque	07/31/2017	6
Devin Lawrence	07/31/2017	6
Matthew McCarthy	07/31/2017	6
Christopher Palasky	07/31/2017	6
Danijel Preloznik	07/31/2017	6
James Schnitker	07/31/2017	6
Trevor Stalbaum	07/31/2017	6

Property Management

Bart Graham	07/25/2016	7
Tammy Lopez	07/26/2021	2

Customer Service

Norman Cathell	07/16/2016	7
Mary-Ellen Saylor	07/26/2021	2

Finance

Linda Sojourn	07/25/2016	7
Loretta Hatch	07/08/2019	4

Budget

Hope Schortemeyer	07/01/2019	4
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Community Watch

James Inderwish	07/05/2005	18
James Brooks	07/11/2007	16
David Levine	07/09/2012	11
Richard Mayo	07/09/2012	11
Floyd Davis	07/23/2012	11
Barbara Fogarty	07/23/2012	11
Kathy Delaney	07/29/2013	10
Frederick Hellmig	07/29/2013	10
Judith Urfer	07/18/2016	7
Charleen Darlington	07/17/2017	6
Joan Mayo	07/17/2017	6
Michael Miller	07/17/2017	6
Harry Wick	07/17/2017	6
Jane Chavez	07/15/2019	4
James Dryer	07/13/2020	3
Shannon Martin	07/13/2020	3
Richard Rest	07/13/2020	3
Cheryl Stines	07/13/2020	3
Charles Briel	07/26/2021	2
Beverly Martin	07/05/2022	1
Steven DeVita	07/11/2022	1
Constance Henderson	07/11/2022	1
Constance Hulka	07/25/2022	1
Stephen Orazine	07/25/2022	1

Human Resources

Angelica Ortiz	07/19/2021	2
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Administration

Tamara Hyder	07/30/2018	5
Martina Smith	07/15/2019	4

Community Standards

Matthew Armstrong	07/21/2010	13
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Recreation & Parks

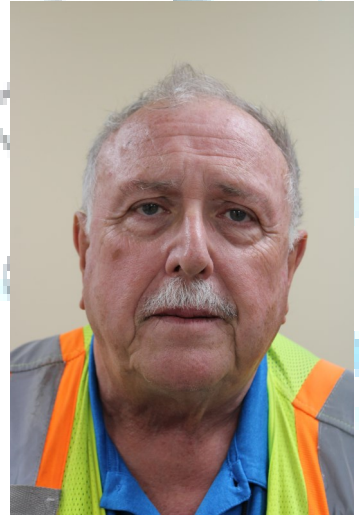
Jay Sampson	07/12/2006	17
Richard Toole	07/12/2006	17
Melanie Sarakinis	07/22/2009	14
Genevieve Tetrault	07/07/2010	13
Linda Viri	07/09/2012	11
Sharon Hehr	07/07/2014	9
Hayward Luther	07/07/2014	9
Michael Burleson	07/06/2015	8
Barbara Andrews	07/20/2015	8
William Davis	07/20/2015	8
Donald Maestri	07/20/2015	8
Patricia McCullough	07/20/2015	8
Cathy Norris	07/20/2015	8
Christopher Arrowood	07/18/2016	7
Paul Emberger	07/18/2016	7
William Skidmore	07/10/2017	6
James Buchanan	07/17/2017	6
Paul Ferreri	07/17/2017	6
William Neale	07/17/2017	6
Thomas Watkins	07/16/2018	5
Richard Spidel	07/15/2019	4
Donald Bussell	07/27/2020	3
Walter McFarlane	07/27/2020	3
Barbara Wysocki	07/27/2020	3
Lyn Stevens	07/12/2021	2
Anna Sumner	07/12/2021	2
Todd Harper	07/26/2021	2
Catherine Herrick	07/26/2021	2
Elizabeth Jewell	07/26/2021	2
Patricia Lane	07/26/2021	2
Wendy Losser	07/26/2021	2
Frederick Santa	07/05/2022	1
Terrance Elsmore	07/11/2022	1
Joan Rodrigues	07/11/2022	1
Rebecca Wingard	07/11/2022	1
Charles Deitrick	07/25/2022	1
Abbe Finkelstein	07/25/2022	1
Scott Green	07/25/2022	1
Steven Kappe	07/25/2022	1
Robert LeBlanc	07/25/2022	1
Scott Long	07/25/2022	1
Donald Mannion	07/25/2022	1
Frank McCann	07/25/2022	1
Deborah Payton	07/25/2022	1
Linda Reilly	07/25/2022	1

CONGRATULATIONS

Thank you for your years of service!

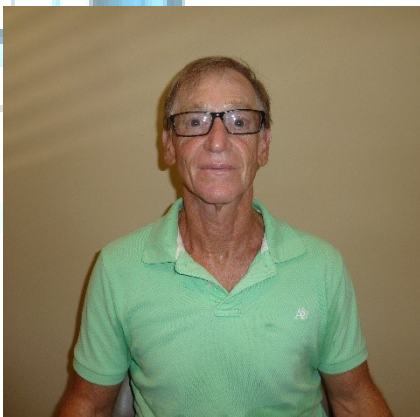


Kathy Delaney
Gate Attendant



Frederick Hellmig
Patrol Driver Substitute

10



Thomas Watkins
Recreation Assistant



Tamara Hyder
Executive Assistant

5

Recognizing Our Core Values In Action!

Customer Service

Anne Flanagan **Customer Service Supervisor**

“Thank you, so much, for all of your help with our resident’s volunteer bench! Her husband and her best friend went to Rohan to see it and said it is perfect! It brought them both to tears. They each sent pictures to me (I’m in Michigan), and I agree, it’s just perfect! The last-minute correction to the plate was made, as well, so "INTL" was engraved as "INT'L" with the apostrophe I really don't know how to convey my gratitude and appreciation for your help and guidance! All I know is that I will always be grateful for it.”

Louis Cummings **Accounting Technician**

Fellow employees wanted to recognize Louis for helping a resident to her car with his umbrella in the rain.



Community Watch

Community Watch Department

A call was received from a resident of Liberty Park. She wanted to thank Community Watch for letting her and her husband, know that their garage door was up while they were out of town. She said “I know you went through trouble to get a hold of us.” She was very appreciative.

Pat Running **Patrol Driver**

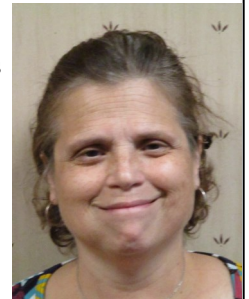
On June 17th, a resident called regarding her lost cat. Pat drove to that area and took the time to look for the cat. He happened to come upon it and called to it. The cat came right to him. He delivered the animal to it’s owner. The resident went to the annex to offer a reward. She was advised that while we really appreciate her gratitude, a note of thanks to the Patrol Driver would suffice. A note from Pat’s supervisor, “Often times the above and beyond mindset demonstrated by our Community Watch Patrol Drivers goes unappreciated. As we are in a position to help or save human lives, these other efforts sometimes go unnoticed. Pat displayed the caring nature and used extra effort and time in the dark to assist our resident in her time of need. One can only imagine the relief and joy that this resident felt when her unharmed cat was handed back to her. Pat is relatively new to the Blue Team, C Shift, and has been one of our Best.”

Frank Fauci **Patrol Driver Substitute**

Frank found 2 newspapers in a resident’s driveway. When he went to the door of the resident, he found a man had fallen and couldn't get up. Frank alerted EMS to assist the resident.

Barbara Denza **Gate Attendant**

“I just wanted to let you know I think Barbara at the Hacienda temporary postal station is terrific! Very helpful, and always with a great attitude! I had trouble getting my mail a month ago (new address) and she helped to make sure I was receiving my mail.”



Marty Seltzer **Patrol Driver Substitute**

A resident reported that Marty stopped to check on him in his garage one morning. The resident did state he has some health problems and had stopped a minute to catch his breath. It was very nice of Marty to stop and check on him.



Community Standards

Shelli Farnsworth **Deed Compliance Officer**

A resident called to say the following about Shelli. “You are a very valuable employee who has a way with calming situations down.” He wanted to share his appreciation for her professionalism.

“Shelli came to the front office at the request of a homeowner. After speaking with him, he told her that she was a pleasure to work with and was a great attribute to our organization.”

Donna Schultz **Staff Assistant**

“Donna brought us in to her office and she was very friendly, kind and informative. When she asked for a picture of the house and proof of ownership, we were very apologetic that we did not know that we needed those two pieces of information. Fortunately, we had pictures of our house on our phone and Donna provided me with the email address to send the best one for the project. I mentioned that we could run home and get our proof of ownership, but she kindly looked this up and printed it for us. Donna walked us through the paper work process and was very patient, helpful and encouraging! We think she needs a raise or at least a nice pat on the back!”

Public Safety

Chris Roberts, Lieutenant **Taylor DeMarchis, Firefighter Paramedic/Driver Engineer** **Sam McEntire, Firefighter Paramedic** **Robert Rivers, Firefighter EMT** **Nina Holland, Single Cert EMT**

“At midnight on June 5th, the Parr Drive unit responded to a 911 call regarding my extreme hypoglycemic status. I wish to herein acknowledge their prompt response, supreme professionalism, courtesy and calming rapport. I was extremely impressed and grateful. Thank you for your service.”

Recognizing Our Core Values In Action!

Recreation & Parks

Luis Figueroa **Recreation Supervisor**

A resident called in to let Recreation Administration know how pleased they are with Luis Figueroa in the way he handled an issue with their Resident Lifestyle Club. The resident gave Luis five stars as he dealt with the matter very professionally. "He's always so pleasant and always eager to lend a helping hand. Thanks!"



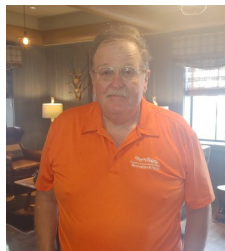
Jo Bugala **Recreation Service Representative**

"Recently I went to Lake Miona Recreation Center to obtain passes for family members to attend my dad's 92nd birthday at the last minute. I was second in line, and Jo Bugala, was apologizing to the resident in front of me because his passes came out on the wrong side of the paper. Jo explained this printer fed differently, and she usually works at Laurel Manor Recreation but was assisting Lake Miona since they were short-staffed. She never got upset or flustered and was professional but very personable. Ultimately, she even asked that I wish my dad a happy birthday for her. Indeed, an exemplary employee."



David Robbins **Recreation Assistant**

"I want to express our gratitude to David Robbins. David was working at the desk at Burnsed Recreation Center on May 11th. After our event that evening, our vehicle wouldn't start. We went back inside to inform David. He assisted in getting us information about taxi companies and the closest car dealers to have our vehicle towed. David stayed late to ensure we were okay. Please let David know how grateful we are for his help and concern."



Recreation & Parks Department

"A few weeks ago, with the Recreation & Parks Department's help, we were able to take videos of ourselves paddling on Lake Sumter. Your assistance proved huge in improving our performance individually and as a team. As a result, last week in Tampa, we were able to compete and hold our own with some of the premier Dragon Boat teams in Florida! Thanks again!"



Alberta Becker **Recreation Assistant**

"Every Friday, our social meets at Odell Recreation Center and recently, it was pouring rain as we left. Alberta went above and beyond and walked everyone with an umbrella to their cars. She also assisted someone with a walker, helped them to their car, and put the walker into their trunk!

Although Alberta got wet, she never lost her smile and pleasant attitude. Her can-do attitude is very much appreciated! Thanks."

Property Management

Andrea Crecelius **Staff Assistant**

A resident called in who has been a resident of The Villages for 24 years, on the historical side. His issue was that someone had dumped a mattress box spring along Shay Blvd and wanted to report it so it could be removed. He had contacted several people before calling DPM. Andrea was the lucky one to receive his call. Andrea, jumping in, in true 'Andrea fashion', reassured the resident that she would get it taken care of and would give him a call back. The resident was a little optimistic on receiving a call back. Andrea left him a message saying that she contacted the county and that they would be out to pick it up. He was so grateful and saw the garbage men turn off to pick up the discarded mattress. He could not express enough how professional, super, and wonderful Andrea was to him. That she went above and beyond, and that there should be more people like her. He said that he worked for Xerox for 25 years and when he came across someone with those qualities, he would offer them a job. He told me that if he was still working, he would try and steal Andrea away from us. He wanted to make sure we knew how super Andrea is.

Team Effort

Scott Grimes, Recreation Facilities Manager **Fred Lonergan, Facilities Supervisor**

"On behalf of so many of us who take our dogs to Atlas Dog Park, we would like to thank you for the very much appreciated maintenance that has been completed on the dog park grounds. It looks so much better, and is a cleaner, safer, more attractive place for us to enjoy as part of our Villages Lifestyle! We also appreciate the Rohan Recreation Center Staff who look after the park on a daily basis to help it stay clean, safe, and looking good! Please share this with other personnel who are part of this ongoing effort."

Utilities

"I just want to say that our sanitation guys are the best! It's the best trio ever, always wave with a smile. It's a hard job, but you would never know it as they do the work fast, always neat, and they are very professional & customer service oriented. Just wanted to let you know that you have an outstanding team & Jardin Court in The Village of Sabal Chase shouts a big thank you."

Hospitality
Innovation & Creativity
Stewardship
Hard Work

Community Watch

On June 22nd, Community Watch employees were recognized for their service years by District Manager Kenny Blocker and Deputy District Manager Carrie Duckett. Pictured left to right: **Kenny Blocker, Frank Fauci, Patrol Driver Substitute, Karla Coats, Gate Attendant, Michael Lucas, Patrol Driver Substitute, David Fitzgibbons, Patrol Driver and Carrie Duckett.**



In addition to awards, a Challenge Coin was given to Frank Fauci. Frank recently saw two newspapers in a driveway and as he checked the residence heard a gentleman call for help inside his home. The resident was in need of immediate assistance and Frank notified Dispatch to call 911. During the critical moments before help arrived, Frank provided comfort and support to the resident by engaging in conversation and offering reassurance. His presence and initial response were instrumental in ensuring that the resident received the necessary medical attention and that the situation did not escalate. Frank is pictured below with his wife.



Nehemiah Wolfe, Director of Community Watch (R) and Randy Schwingle, Communications Manager (L), participated in the Wildwood Policy Department Memorial Day Community Event on May 24th.



District

The District currently has two softball teams playing this year's league. Our two teams played each other on June 5th. The score was 11 to 1 with our Recreation & Parks team winning over our District team. Everyone had a great time! Go Teams!



Executive Golf

Executive Golf held a baby shower for **Dalton Parker, Executive Golf Supervisor** and his wife Kailey. They are expecting a baby boy in July. Congratulations!



Fire Administration recently announced **Scott Rylski, Firefighter EMT-Driver Engineer**, as their 2023 Firefighter of The Year. Scott was nominated by several of his peers during the nomination process. A common theme among all of the nominations received was Scott's positive attitude, motivational work ethic, and his passion for the department, his fellow firefighters, and the community we serve. Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit nominations and recognize your brothers and sisters.



Property Management

Property Management held a Soup Cook Off on June 2nd. The judges were, pictured left to right, **Cindy Stenerson, Accounts Payable Supervisor, Brandy Cook, Budget Director, and Melissa Schaar, Purchasing Director**. The winner of the cook off was **Stan Davis, Facilities Supervisor** with his very own creation called Comfort No. 57 soup.



Thank You Chief Twiss

"I just wanted to share a little personal experience with Fire Chief Brian Twiss, and hope that you share it with whomever you think would be appropriate, if appropriate, as it is important to me that credit is given where credit is due. My mom recently had total shoulder replacement surgery. In the month/weeks leading up to it I started to unravel a little more each day because my mom is the only parent I have left since my dad passed in 2016, and she is what I lovingly refer to as "My #1." That being said, I tried my best to remain like a duck, calm on the surface while paddling like heck underneath, this was the first major incident involving my mom since my Dad passed, so it was more and more apparent to me every day that I was going to be at the helm of the ship without Dad, who always maintained the helm of the ship. Chief Twiss always checks in with us to see how we are doing so I filled him in and he immediately offered his fancy ice machine for her to use (which has been incredible), and made it a point to offer me support every day in his own special way. Making sure I ate, laughed, was able to share how I was feeling. He has his ways of supporting us all in exactly the way we need at exactly the right time. The day of her surgery, he went so far as to drive over an hour from his house all the way over to Citrus County at 03:00 in the morning and sat with me for the duration of her surgery. It was a great surprise to be met by him in the parking lot of the hospital while I was walking mom inside and trying not to bite my last nail off. He literally sat with me for the entire process, offering me words of support, trying to get my mind at ease, and also reminding me that if I shook my leg any harder we would have an earthquake. I am eternally grateful to him for being there for me like he was because beforehand I said "nah I've got this" and at the hospital it became very evident to me that I in fact did not have it, especially when they took her back to start surgery. I cannot tell you how much it meant and will always mean to me that he cared that much about me and my mom so much that he did that, he did not have to, I did not ask him or expect him to, and still, there he was. He still asks me how she is doing every day, we hit 4 weeks post op yesterday. Just wanted to share the type of leader we have, and hope at your discretion it reaches the right ears/eyes. Thank you to you and everyone involved in blessing us with Chief Twiss as our Fire Chief. The admiration we all have for him is immeasurable. In his recent Our Place Article he spoke about servant leadership: I can tell you from experience that he is the definition of every word he spoke. My Mom thinks he is great too, which you know how the Mom test goes, Moms are a great judge of character."



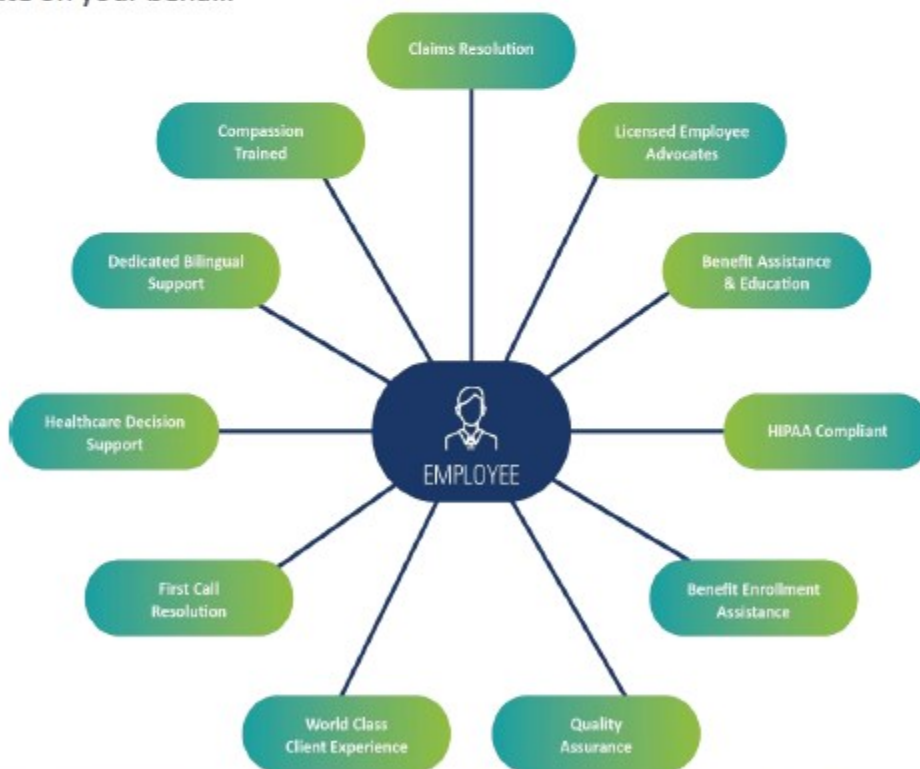


WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT'S **EMPLOYEE CARE CENTER**

As a benefit eligible District employee, you have access to the Employee Care Center of BKS Partners!

The Employee Care Center (ECC) is a dedicated team of licensed Advocacy Analysts that assists employees with their benefits related questions. Our HIPAA certified and compassion trained Advocates assist with claim resolution, benefits enrollment assistance, benefits education, and healthcare decision support. Our mission critical is to ensure that your needs are met accurately and timely.

The ECC Team will help with explaining benefit plan offerings during Open Enrollment and throughout the year. We provide instructions on how to access the carrier sites to order ID cards, find providers in the network, assist with escalated claims, and advocate on your behalf.



CONTACT US:

Phone: 855.640.7159 | Email: ECCBenefitsCentral@bks-partners.com

Available Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm EST

Severe Weather Safety

Hurricane Season: June 1st– November 30th

It is the time of year where our Florida weather requires us to become more aware of the conditions around us. Hurricane season is from June to November and along with that comes heat, frequent thunderstorms, with possible lightning strikes and tornados. Living in Florida, it is crucial to have a hurricane preparedness plan, a hurricane kit, and know what to expect during hurricane season.

Know the terms

Severe Weather Watch- conditions are favorable for severe weather. You want to be aware and prepared, so make sure to review your safety plan and have multiple ways to receive alerts if a warning is issued.

Severe Weather Warning– severe weather is happening now! Take action immediately and get to your safe place.

Thunderstorms and Lightning

“When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”

Florida sees an average of 1.4 million cloud-to-ground lightning strikes every year and often has the greatest number of lightning related injuries and deaths in the United States.

Severe Thunderstorms

Florida has the greatest number of thunderstorms in the United States, occurring 75–105 days each year. Thunderstorms can produce dangerous hazards such as lightning, tornadoes, hail, strong winds and heavy rain that can lead to flooding. Severe thunderstorms are those which produce winds in excess of fifty-eight miles per hour, hail one inch across or larger, or tornadoes.

Tornado Watch – conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms to form, a few of which may be capable of producing a tornado.

⇒ Continue Routine Activities.

⇒ Have phone or internet weather notification set up on your phone:

Marion County: www.alertmarion.com

Lake County: www.alertlake.com

Sumter County: www.sumterprepares.com

⇒ Or tune to your local TV, radio, or NOAA Weather Radio for your location.

Have a plan to take shelter quickly

Tornado Warning – a tornado is either occurring or imminent based on radar. **Take cover immediately.**

Have a plan at home and practice it with your family before a storm.

Prepare for Disasters

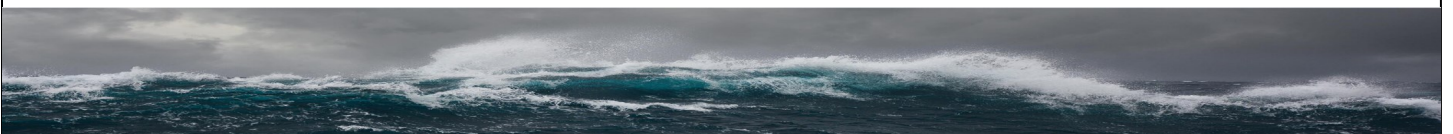
Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards and act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.

Build a Kit

Gather supplies that will last for several (7) days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits yearly!

Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. The time to prepare for this hurricane season is NOW.

- ⇒ Declutter drains and gutters, bring in outside furniture (when there is a Hurricane Watch), consider hurricane shutters.
- ⇒ Keep your cell phone charged when you know a hurricane is in the forecast and purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.
- ⇒ Have enough supplies for your household, include medication, disinfectant supplies, cloth face coverings, pet supplies in your go bag or car trunk.
- ⇒ If you or anyone in your household is an individual with a disability identify if you may need additional help during an emergency.
- ⇒ Make sure your insurance policies and personal documents such as your ID are up to date. Make copies and keep them in a secure password protected digital space.
- ⇒ Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.





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Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

TL:DR – Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

Don't have time to read the full guide just yet? No problem!

In the handy graphic below, you'll find all the key points about Public Service Loan Forgiveness, including eligibility requirements, qualifying loans, employers, payment plans, and the PSLF application process.



What is Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)?

A program designed to forgive the student loans of graduates who work for government or non-profit organizations.



What Are the Eligibility Requirements for PSLF?

To be eligible, you must:



Qualifying Federal Student Loans

Direct Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized Loans
Direct Graduate PLUS Loans
Direct Consolidation Loans

Qualifying Repayment Plans

Pay as You Earn (PAYE)
Revised Pay as You Earn (REPAYE)
Income-Based Repayment (IBR)
Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR)

Qualifying Employers

Government Organizations (local, state, federal, or tribal)
Some non-profit organizations—especially 501(c)(3) organizations

Qualifying Payments

On-time (no more than 15 days past due date)
Made while in repayment status
Full monthly amount due
Do not need to be consecutive

How to Apply for PSLF



Training ~ June 2023

All professional development training workshops are open to all District Staff members.

New Hire Orientation

Instructor: Varied District Staff

For: All New Team Members

Class Info: Welcome to the team! This class provides new team members with a wide range of topics to help you navigate your first 60 days as a member of the team. Topics covered include District Core Values, Mission Statement, policy & procedures, diversity & inclusion, and safety practices.

Dates: July 10 & 24

Time: 8am-12:30pm

Location: Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd.



Public Records & Ethics

Instructor: Computer Based Learning

For: All District Staff

Class Info: Each of us, as members of the District, are responsible in our positions to be aware of and fully understand what information is protected under Public Records Law, how long to retain certain records, how to handle public records requests and Government Sunshine Laws.

Dates: Attendees will be assigned via the training department

Time: Will be assigned via the training department

Location: Online

Community Watch Contact: Sharon Gwin (352-750-8203)

Finance Contact: Linda Sojourn (352-753-0421)

Recreation Contact: Becky Manserra (352-674-1800)

Remaining District Staff Contact: Human Resources (352-674-1905)



Has a co-worker helped you out?

Did someone do something extra special for you that meant a lot?

Do you really like your work team?

*Does your co-worker/supervisor/director
have a positive attitude all the time?*

Do you really like working at The District?

The District wants to hear about it!

Send your kudos, praise, and positive comments to
Terianne Carroll (Terianne.Carroll@DistrictGov.org)
for the next newsletter.

Lets celebrate one another and the hard work
we do every day!

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